



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.1635 | FAX (517) 373.3300

www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/vanwoerkom/

For Immediate Release
September 24, 2004

Contact: Kirk Hanna
517-373-1635

New legislation will combat invasive plant species

LANSING – Michigan would be better protected against invasive plant species like Eurasian milfoil and hydrilla under legislation introduced Thursday in the Michigan Senate, Sen. Gerald Van Woerkom, a package sponsor, announced.

“If left unchecked, non-native plant species could wreak havoc on Michigan’s environment,” said Van Woerkom, R-Norton Shores. “Sound regulation of these plants will help preserve our environment for generations to come.”

Senate Bills 1420-1427 would regulate the sale and possession of certain non-native plants that pose a threat to habitats in Michigan. The legislation is similar to prohibitions put in place earlier this year to protect Michigan’s waterways from invasion by non-native fish species.

The package also would establish a Non-native Species Advisory Council to establish criteria for identifying infested waterways and make recommendations regarding the state’s efforts to eradicate invasive species. The council also would report annually to the Legislature with recommendations for additions to the lists of invasive species and infested waterways.

“By acting now to protect Michigan from invasive plants, we can help prevent the devastating impact these plants could have on our environment,” Van Woerkom said.

The Great Lakes Conservation Task Force Report, issued in 2002, made broad recommendations for important steps that the state should take to protect our water quality. One of the most important recommendations was to implement laws to guard against further invasion of non-native fish and plants.

###